

Testimony
Department of Human Services
Human Services Committee
Representative Alon Wieland, Chairman
October 25, 2011

Chairman Wieland and members of the Human Services Interim Committee, I am JoAnne Hoesel, Director, Division of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to provide a status of the substance abuse services pilot voucher payment program.

The Sixty-Second Legislative Assembly, Senate Bill 2326, directed the Department to establish and administer a pilot voucher payment program to provide substance abuse services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013. The Department is to apply for funding available through a federal Access to Recovery grant program available from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration center for substance abuse treatment.

I was in contact with Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) on October 17, 2011 and they do not anticipate an Access to Recovery (ATR) grant announcement for another three years, if it is renewed. At this point, they report it is difficult to speculate whether or not it will be funded again.

I do have frequent contact with our SAMHSA project officer and will continue to monitor this grant's potential announcement.

I am available to answer any questions.